

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 HEW-08 NSF-04 CU-04 PA-04 PRS-01

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1073

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 29064

DEPT PASS NIE FOR GLENNAN AND MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OECD

SUBJECT: US RELATIONSHIP WITH CERI

REF: A) LAZNA/PFEIFFER LETTER OF OCTOBER 31

B) STATE 219815

1. SUMMARY: IN CAUTIOUS RESPONSE TO NIE PROPOSAL (REF A).
GASS SAID MAJOR PROBLEM WAS WHETHER US OFFER COULD BE
PRESENTED IN FORM WHICH WOULD ALLOW SECGEN AND CERI MEMBERS,
PARTICULARLY FRG AND JAPAN, TO ACCEPT A RELATIONSHIP WHICH
EARLIER THIS YEAR THEY INDICATED WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE.
GASS ASKED THAT US DEFER FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF NIE OFFER
TO SECGEN AT LEAST UNTIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON
NOVEMBER 26-27 IN ORDER TO ALLOW HIM TO SOUND OUT PRIVATE
FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS AND TO PREPARE
BRIEF FOR SECGEN. GASS WILL PROBABLY RAISE MATTER IN WASHINGTON
TALKS NOV. 12.

ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION SEES MERIT IN GASS SUGGESTION
THAT WE DELAY NOTIFICATION UNTIL END OF MONTH BECAUSE
THIS WILL ENABLE US TO SOUND REACTIONS OF OTHER IMPORTANT
NATIONAL DELEGATIONS (ESPECIALLY FRANCE AND THE UK).
UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, MISSION WILL WAIT UNTIL
AFTER GB MEETING TO NOTIFY SECGEN OF NIE PROPOSAL.
END SUMMARY.

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2. GASS'S INITIAL DISAPPOINTMENT WITH NIE PROPOSAL TO REPEAT IN 1974 THE 1973 ARRANGEMENT (US CONTRIBUTION OF \$150,000 IN RETURN FOR PARTICIPATION OF US REP IN CERI GOVERNING BOARD) TEMPERED BY EXPLANATION OF NIE BUDGETARY DIFFICULTIES. HE RECALLED THAT WHEN COUNCIL HAD APPROVED 1973 SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR US, SECGEN AND CERTAIN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING FRG AND JAPAN, HAD TAKEN STRONG POSITION THAT FUTURE (POST 1973) US RELATIONSHIP WITH CERI SHOULD BE ON BASIS OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF 25-0/0 OF CERI BUDGET. HE SAID CRUCIAL OBSTACLE FOR US PROPOSAL WAS WILLINGNESS OF CERI MEMBERS TO ACCEPT "LEGAL FICTION" OR FACE-SAVING DEVICE IF EITHER THE SECGEN OR THE CERI MEMBERS INSISTED ON PRINCIPLE OF 25-0/0 CONTRIBUTION, US PARTICIPATION IN 1974 WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

3. GASS PROCEEDED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF SUBMITTING NIE OFFER IN WAY THAT WOULD MAKE SECGEN AND CERI MEMBERS MORE WILLING TO ACCEPT COMPROMISE. HE SAID IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO SHOW THAT US TOTAL CONTRIBUTION HAD INCREASED OVER 1973, EVEN IF ONLY IN MODEST WAY. HE WONDERED WHETHER NIE COULD ADD ROUGHLY \$20,000 TO COVER MANDATORY INCREASES IN THE 1974 BUDGET; SINCE OTHER CERI MEMBERS WERE PAYING COSTS OF INFLATION, GASS FELT US OFFER WOULD BE STRONGER IF IT DID THE SAME. HE INQUIRED WHETHER NSF AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES COULD NOT FORM A CONSORTIUM WITH NIE TO INCREASE OVERALL TOTAL. HE ALSO SAID HE WAS SEEKING US FOUNDATION MONEY AND THAT CHANCES OF A FORD GRANT WERE GOOD; HE WOULD URGE SECGEN AND CERI MEMBERS TO CONSIDER FOUNDATION GRANTS AS PART OF OVERALL US CONTRIBUTION. IF SOME PROGRESS COULD BE MADE TOWARD MAKING UP DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NIE OFFER AND 25-0/0 CONTRIBUTION (ROUGHLY \$75,000) GASS SAID SOME CUT-BACK OF CERI PROGRAM WOULD MAKE UP THE REST. GASS CAN BE EXPECTED TO RAISE THESE QUESTIONS DURING WASHINGTON VISIT NOVEMBER 12 (REF B).

4. THE INITIAL REACTION OF FRG AND JAPANESE DELEGATIONS TO NIE PROPOSAL WAS DISBELIEF FOLLOWED BY PROMISE TO CONVEY PROPOSAL TO THEIR AUTHORITIES. BOTH DOUBTED WHETHER REACTION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE CERI GOVERNING BOARD MEETING BUT AGREET TO KEEP MISSION INFORMED.BROWN
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